



Friday 22 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Surrey County Council are currently consulting on changes to published admissions numbers (PAN) for several schools across the county. Proposed changes to West Ashtead Primary School admissions are included in this consultation which officially launched on 20 October 2021. In light of this publication, we would like to clarify the rationale behind the schools' decision to propose a reduced intake into Year Three, in effect, transitioning to a single class year-group throughout the school.

The consultation document shows that there are already more places locally than there are children to take them up, in addition, the birth-rate in the area is forecast to fall. As a result, the existing surplus in school places will increase in the coming years.

We have already started to see the impact through a reduced entry in Year Three and Reception and whilst there are short term benefits in terms of reduced class sizes, this is simply not financially sustainable.

Currently West Ashtead has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30 in Reception, Year One & Year Two. This increases to 60 for each of our Key Stage Two year groups. Our budget is based on the actual number of children in school, so when our pupil numbers drop, there is an immediate impact on the income we receive from the Local Authority. A suggestion to introduce a cap on admission numbers in other local primary schools was rejected by Surrey County Council.

Governors were faced with the dilemma that our income could not continue to support the smaller class numbers indefinitely. We have explored several options to protect our budget but concluded that the only viable course of action is to propose a reduction in Published Admission Numbers transitioning the school to a single year-group class entry.

I encourage you to read the consultation document, which invites your response to the proposals. In the meantime, please do contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Finally, and on behalf of the Governors and staff, we would like to say that we love our school and the community we support. We pride ourselves on being a friendly welcoming school in the heart of Ashtead and with your support we will continue to provide the best for our children.

Kind Regards

Mrs Elaine Joyce

Chair of Governors

Mrs Ruth Hall

Headteacher



